

What is Claimed is:

1. A constant contact side bearing assembly comprising:
 - a. a base member having a first joint portion;
 - b. a lever member having a second joint portion, a spring reaction portion, and upper and lower contact portions, one of said upper and lower contact portions adapted to engage a respective one of said base member and a wear plate on one of a truck bolster and a car body, said first and second joint portions cooperating to form a translationally restrained and rotationally free joint; and
 - c. a spring element which is activated responsive to movement of said spring reaction portion.
2. The constant contact side bearing assembly of claim 1 further comprising said base member having a spring mounting portion and said spring disposed between said spring mounting portion and said spring reaction portion.
3. The constant contact side bearing assembly of claim 1 further comprising:
 - a. a tension member having a first end and a second end, said first end connected to said spring reaction portion;
 - b. a spring reaction plate connected to said second end; and
 - c. said spring element having one end positioned adjacent said spring reaction plate and a opposite end adapted for placement adjacent a fixed surface, wherein said spring element is compressible between said spring reaction plate and said fixed surface responsive to movement of said spring reaction portion.

4. The constant contact side bearing assembly of claim 3 further comprising adjustment means associated with at least one of said first and second ends of said tension member for preloading said spring element.
5. The constant contact side bearing assembly of claim 1 further comprising:
 - a. said base member having a tension member mounting portion;
 - b. a tension member having a first end and a second end, said first end connected to said tension member mounting portion;
 - c. a spring mounting plate connected to said second end;
 - d. said spring reaction portion positioned intermediate said tension member mounting portion and said spring mounting plate; and
 - e. said spring element positioned between said spring reaction portion and said spring mounting plate for activation responsive to movement of said spring reaction portion.
6. The constant contact side bearing assembly of claim 5 further comprising adjustment means associated with at least one of said first and second ends of said tension member for preloading said spring element.
7. The constant contact side bearing assembly of claim 1 further comprising at least one of said upper and lower contact portions being replaceable.

8. The constant contact side bearing assembly of claim 1 further comprising at least one of said upper and lower contact portions having a replaceable wear portion.

9. The constant contact side bearing assembly of claim 1 further comprising said upper and lower contact portions located near a centerline of a truck bolster when said constant contact side bearing assembly is mounted between a car body and a truck bolster.

10. A constant contact side bearing assembly comprising:

- a. a base member having a first joint portion and a spring mounting portion;
- b. a lever member having a second joint portion, a spring reaction portion, and upper and lower contact portions adapted to engage, respectively, said base member and a wear plate, said first and second joint portions cooperating to form a translationally restrained and rotationally free joint; and
- c. a spring element disposed between said spring mounting portion and said spring reaction portion for compression therebetween.

11. The constant contact side bearing assembly of claim 10 further comprising at least one of said upper and lower contact portions being replaceable.

12. The constant contact side bearing assembly of claim 10 further comprising at least one of said upper and lower contact portions having a replaceable wear portion.

13. The constant contact side bearing assembly of claim 10 further comprising said upper and lower contact portions located near a centerline of a truck bolster when said constant contact side bearing assembly is mounted between a car body and a truck bolster.

14. A constant contact side bearing assembly comprising:

- a. a base member having a first joint portion;
- b. a lever member having a second joint portion, a spring reaction portion, and upper and lower contact portions adapted to engage, respectively, said base member and a wear plate, said first and second joint portions cooperating to form a translationally restrained and rotationally free joint;
- c. a tension member having a first end and a second end, said first end connected to said spring reaction portion;
- d. a spring reaction plate connected to said second end; and
- e. a spring element having one end positioned adjacent said spring reaction plate and a opposite end adapted for placement adjacent a fixed surface, wherein said spring element is compressible between said spring reaction plate and said fixed surface responsive to movement of said distal end.

15. The constant contact side bearing assembly of claim 14 further comprising adjustment means associated with at least one of said first and second ends of said tension member for preloading said spring element.

16. The constant contact side bearing assembly of claim 14 further comprising at least one of said upper and lower contact portions being replaceable.

17. The constant contact side bearing assembly of claim 14 further comprising at least one of said upper and lower contact portions having a replaceable wear portion.

18. The constant contact side bearing assembly of claim 14 further comprising said upper and lower contact portions located near a centerline of a truck bolster when said constant contact side bearing assembly is mounted between a car body and a truck bolster.

19. A constant contact side bearing assembly comprising:

a. a base member having a first joint portion and a tension member mounting portion;

b. a lever member having a second joint portion, a spring reaction portion, and upper and lower contact portions adapted to engage, respectively, said base member and a wear plate, said first and second joint portions cooperating to form a translationally restrained and rotationally free joint;

c. a tension member having a first end and a second end, said first end connected to said tension member mounting portion;

d. a spring mounting plate connected to said second end; and

e. a spring element disposed between said spring mounting plate and said spring reaction portion for compression therebetween.

20. The constant contact side bearing assembly of claim 19 further comprising adjustment means associated with at least one of said first and second ends of said tension member for preloading said spring element.
21. The constant contact side bearing assembly of claim 19 further comprising at least one of said upper and lower contact portions being replaceable.
22. The constant contact side bearing assembly of claim 19 further comprising at least one of said upper and lower contact portions having a replaceable wear portion.
23. The constant contact side bearing assembly of claim 19 further comprising said upper and lower contact portions located near a centerline of a truck bolster when said constant contact side bearing assembly is mounted between a car body and a truck bolster.
24. A constant contact side bearing assembly comprising:
- a. a base member having a first joint portion and a spring mounting portion;
 - b. a lever member having a second joint portion, a spring reaction portion, and upper and lower contact portions adapted to engage, respectively, a wear plate and said base member, said first and second joint portions cooperating to form a translationally restrained and rotationally free joint;

- c. a tension member having a first end and a second end, said first end connected to said spring reaction portion;
- d. a spring mounting plate connected to said second end; and
- e. a spring element disposed between said spring mounting plate and said spring mounting portion for compression therebetween.

25. The constant contact side bearing assembly of claim 24 further comprising adjustment means associated with at least one of said first and second ends of said tension member for preloading said spring element.

26. The constant contact side bearing assembly of claim 24 further comprising at least one of said upper and lower contact portions being replaceable.

27. The constant contact side bearing assembly of claim 24 further comprising at least one of said upper and lower contact portions having a replaceable wear portion.

28. The constant contact side bearing assembly of claim 24 further comprising said upper and lower contact portions located near a centerline of a truck bolster when said constant contact side bearing assembly is mounted between a car body and a truck bolster.